

From: Richardson, Paul
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 11/21/01 10:18am
Subject: The Settlement

To Whom It Concerns,

I just wanted to drop you a note expressing my dissatisfaction with the Microsoft settlement. The trial demonstrated that Microsoft participated in unfair, anti-competitive behavior and that it harmed consumers and the industry. The whole point of the trial was to determine whether Microsoft had caused harm, and if so to prevent them from repeating their actions and to attempt to correct some of the problems they created. The settlement is very weak and does not go far enough. Microsoft caused many companies to go out of business by bundling and by forcing computer manufacturers not to include competing products. This greatly harmed the software industry and caused many companies to go out of business. The original decision would have caused the company to be split up so that it could not so easily repeat its anti-competitive behavior. This at least would have paved the way to creating a more competitive software market. Instead of striving to correct the problems in the industry created by Microsoft, the current settlement is nothing except the lightest of slaps on the wrist for Microsoft. It does not attempt to rectify anything, and it barely punishes Microsoft for its long history of abuses. If the Department of Justice goes through with this settlement, it is just an invitation for Microsoft to continue its behavior and for other dominant companies to do the same. The Government is suppose to strive to protect the consumers and the settlement does nothing towards this goal.

Sincerely,
Paul Richardson
2952 Bunker Hill Lane
Santa Clara, CA 95054